

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Nagamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,292,239, in further view of Gushiken et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,844,744, Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,006, and Bovio, U.S. Patent No. 6,202,256.

Independent claims 1-6 provide that at least one projected portion is made in the upper edge of the liquid crystal module and at least one projected portion is made in the lower edge of the liquid crystal module for fitting the liquid crystal module between the bottom plate and the outside frame. In contrast, what the Examiner alleges to be equivalent in Nagamura et al. to the projected portion, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, before this amendment, namely, the fastening portions 12a and 12b on the resin frame 3, (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 1, lines 4-5), being a part of the liquid crystal panel 1, are only on the lower edge of the liquid crystal panel 1, (column 12, lines 54-58; Fig. 8). The construction clearly provided for in the amended claims of at least one projected portion on both the upper and lower edges of the liquid crystal module allows for a connection of the bottom plate to the outside frame when the two are connected by the connection portion and the at least two through-holes in the projected portion. This connection should be stronger than a connection on only the lower edge of the liquid crystal panel as shown in Nagamura et al.

Furthermore, even if Nagamura et al. and Gushiken et al. are combined, they still do not produce the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 6. Although Gushiken et al. discloses a hinge mechanism 70. (see Fig. 2), and hook portions near the upper left and upper right corners of the display frame, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion that a first part of the connection portion, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, is located in a first area, in which a hinge metal member is

connected. In other words, the location of the first part of the connection portion being in the same area as the area in which the hinge metal member connects the body of the portable data terminal or information processing equipment and the cover is nowhere disclosed, taught, or suggested by either of the references alone or in combination. This feature is important to the invention since it prevents the cover from becoming large as explained on page 18, lines 3-17, of the specification and as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

Moreover, even the use of Lee and Bovio by the Examiner is respectfully submitted to be incorrect.

The plurality of screws 40 in Fig. 3 of Lee, mentioned by the Examiner, connect a hinge to a display housing of a portable computer. Those screws do not connect a liquid crystal module to a bottom plate and outside frame when the bottom plate and outside frame are placed on opposite sides of the liquid crystal module, as claimed in claims 1 and 6. In Lee, in contrast to claims 1 and 6, there is not even a separate liquid crystal module, bottom plate and outside frame; there is only a front panel 20 which supports the front of display 18 and a display housing 22 supporting the rear of display 18.

The through-holes 54 in Fig. 4 of Bovio, mentioned by the Examiner, are for screws attaching stiffening member 30 to upper hinge piece 32. They are part of a hinge between a base unit housing of a notebook computer and a top cover for that computer. Those holes, therefore, have nothing to do with holes helping to connect a liquid crystal module with a bottom plate and outside frame when they are placed on the back side and front side of the display face of the liquid crystal module, respectively, as claimed in claims 1 and 6.

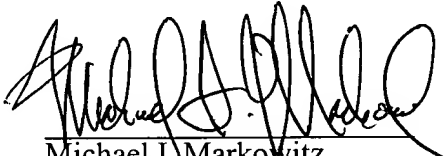
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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